

AMENDMENTS

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R. S. 3/21/01

Please amend this application as follows.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims ~~1, 6, 15~~ and ~~18~~, and rewrite claims to, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12-14 and 17-20 as set out below.

In accordance with 37 CFR 121 (c):

(1) A clean version of the entire set of pending claims is set out below. In this version,

- (i) the claims are without markings to indicate the changes made,
- (ii) in each claim, a parenthetical expression follows the claim number indicating the status of the claim as amended or unchanged, and
- (iii) the cancellation of claims 1 and 6 by this amendment, and the earlier cancellation of claim 4, have also been noted.

(2) Attached hereto is a separate paper entitled "Version with Markings to show Changes requested by the Reply mailed March 12, 2001 in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121 (c) (1) (ii)". This paper sets out each of the rewritten claims (but not any of the other claims), marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the claim. In this version,

- (i) a parenthetical expression (which is the same as the parenthetical expression in the clean version of claims set out below) follows the claim number and indicates the status of the claim as amended, and
- (ii) the changes are shown by brackets (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

Claim 1 has been canceled by this amendment.

2. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 10 which is substantially free of water.

3. (Amended) A thickened oil composition which is a water-in-oil emulsion and which comprises

(1) an oil, and

(2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which

(a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;

(b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,

(c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises

(i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and

(ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,

if and

(d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

Claim 4 was previously canceled

32 Sub 4
E1
p. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 10, wherein the SCC polymer is present in amount at least 3 % by weight and contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical containing 12 to 50 carbon atoms.

Claim 6 has been canceled by this amendment.

B3 Sub
C2
57. (Amended)

A thickened oil composition which comprises

(1) an oil, and

(2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which

- (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;
- (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
- (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
 - (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
 - (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil, and
- (d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) homopolymer which is substantially free of functional groups;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

68. (Amended)

A composition according to Claim 57, wherein the SCC polymer consists essentially of units derived from an n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms.

9. (Unchanged)

A composition according to Claim 8 wherein the SCC polymer is present in amount at least 3% by weight and the n-alkyl group contains 16 to 50 carbon atoms.

BA
SUB
C2
10. (Amended)

A thickened oil composition comprising

(1) an oil, and

(2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which

- (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;
- (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,

B4
cont.

- (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
(i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p ,
and
(ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,
and
- (d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is a
copolymer, which is substantially free of functional groups, and
which consists essentially of units selected from
- (a) units derived from at least one n-alkyl acrylate or
methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50
carbon atoms, and
- (b) units derived from at least one alkyl acrylate or
methacrylate in which the alkyl group is not an n-alkyl group
containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

11. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 10 wherein the SCC polymer is
present in amount at least 3 % by weight and the n-alkyl group contains 16 to 50 carbon
atoms.

9 ¹/₁₂. (Amended) A composition according to Claim ¹/₁₀, wherein T_p is above 40 °C.

10 ¹/₁₃. (Amended) A composition according to Claim ¹/₁₀, wherein T_p is 40-50 °C.

11 ¹/₁₄. (Amended) A composition according to Claim ¹/₁₀, wherein $T_p - T_o$ is less than
10°C.

Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled by this amendment.

1217. (Amended)

which comprises

- (1) an oil, and
(2) dispersed in the oil, at least 3% by weight of a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which

- (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , of 20 to 80 °C, and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than 10 °C;
(b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
(c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
(i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
(ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,
(d) contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical or a linear substantially perfluorinated polymethylene radical containing 6 to 50 carbon atoms, and
(e) is substantially free of functional groups;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

1318. (Amended)

A composition according to Claim 1217, wherein T_p is 40-50 °C.

1419. (Amended)

A composition according to Claim 1217, wherein the SCC polymer consists essentially of units derived from at least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms.

15
20. (Amended) A thickened oil composition which comprises

- B6
cont.
- (1) an oil, and
 - (2) dispersed in the oil, at least 3% by weight of a side chain crystalline (SCC) homopolymer which

- (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , of 20 to 80 °C, and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than 10 °C;

- (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,

- (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
 - (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and

- (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,

- (d) contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms or a linear substantially perfluorinated polymethylene radical containing 6 to 50 carbon atoms, and

- (e) is substantially free of functional groups;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .
